



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## Environment and Natural Resources Committee DRAFT Minutes

November 5, 2008 — 9:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Jack Darin – Sierra Club, Ingrid Ruttendjie – Fox Waterway Agency, Patricia Young – Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Joe Schuessler – Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Patty Werner - Lake County SMC, Karla Kramer – US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wally Van Buren – Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies, Pete Harmet - IDOT, Lenore Beyer-Clow – Openlands, John Rogner (alternate) – Chicago Wilderness, Jim Van der Kloot – USEPA, Kate Agasie – Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Mel Nickerson – Environmental Law & Policy Center, Kama Dobbs – DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Patrick Ryan – Berwyn, Ken Anderson – Kane County

**Staff Present:** Bob Dean, Megan Elberts, Jesse Elam, Don Kopec, Kristin Heery

**Others Present:** Debra Lazar Pearl and Drew Carhart – Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting

### 1.0 Call to Order

Chair Jack Darin called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

### 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

### 3.0 Approval of Minutes from October 1, 2008

The minutes were approved without changes.

### 4.0 Coordinating Committees Update

Jack Darin reported on previous Programming Committee meetings at which the draft Developments of Regional Importance (DRI) process document was discussed. Jack stated that he felt CMAP staff had not fully incorporated ENR committee comments into

the DRI document and encouraged ENR committee members and their organizations to provide input directly during the public comment period.

## **5.0 GO TO 2040**

### **5.1 Strategy Workshops**

Bob Dean passed out a September 3 memo to the Planning Committee describing the scenario construction and evaluation process. He then explained that the details of each strategy would be reviewed at “panel meetings” with committee members and others with expertise in the topic. The major point of the panel meetings is to check the assumptions behind the work CMAP is doing. They would be scheduled starting around Thanksgiving.

A member asked whether the point of the scenarios was to avoid tradeoffs. Bob noted that the scenarios would help clarify tradeoffs, but that a “floor”, or basic standard of maintenance, would be included in all of the scenarios. No scenario would make the region worse off in any category than it is presently. Another question was whether the scenarios would be mutually exclusive. Bob answered that the preferred scenario would be a blend of the others. Asked whether strategies would be geographically targeted, he answered yes, but the results would be presented in such a way as to focus on regional benefits rather than “who gets what where.”

### **5.2 Conservation Approach in the GO TO 2040 Plan**

Jesse Elam led a discussion based on an October 27 memo to the ENR committee describing the proposed approach to a variety of conservation-related strategies in *GO TO 2040*. This memo was based on a letter written by Randy Blankenhorn (CMAP executive director) to Melinda Pruett-Jones (Chicago Wilderness executive director). One member questioned why CMAP had elected not to construct an “environmental scenario.” Jesse answered that this would probably cause friction between interest groups. It was also pointed out that economic benefits from environmental protection could also be captured. It was also suggested that the reference scenario needed to be defined better. Another member suggested that it would be helpful to have a definition of green infrastructure that incorporates regional and local definitions and for CMAP to show how its conservation approach includes them both. Jesse agreed to provide such a mental map. Another member suggested that using conservation design in the Green Infrastructure Vision Resource Protection Areas could be considered a “floor.” For additional scenario evaluation indicators, a member suggested “flexibility” or a coping indicator to measure how well a scenario deals with unanticipated changes. Another suggested stream flashiness as an indicator.

## **6.0 Role of ENR Committee and Relationship to Other Committees**

Jesse noted that this item was up for discussion by the ENR committee because some of its members felt either that ENR input was not being adequately incorporated or that there was insufficient coordination between ENR and other committees. Bob Dean noted

that ENR ideas were being incorporated into *GO TO 2040* directly through member/staff contact at the committee meetings, but that staff needed to interpret recommendations in the light of practicality. A member asked how it would be possible to take issues from the ENR committee (working level) to higher committees. This is not done with any committee except in the case of the DRI process, where input was formally collected and responded to. The coordinating committees also have representatives from ENR who should relay its concerns. It was agreed that Jesse should send coordinating committee agendas as well as the working committee summaries to the ENR committee. Also, it was recommended that, for issues of common interest (e.g., the energy snapshot report), the ENR committee could have a joint meeting with another committee such as the Economic and Community Development committee.

**7.0 Discussion Items/Follow Up for Future Meetings**

No discussion.

**8.0 Other Business**

None.

**9.0 Public Comment**

Staff from the Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting made a presentation to the committee and asked whether they could have a place on the January meeting agenda, which the committee agreed to do.

**10.0 Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Elam', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jesse Elam  
CMAP staff liaison